Satwater Satwater



- Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations
- Commonly Caught Species
- Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby
- Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Calendar
- Lobstering and Crabbing
- Bait & Tackle Shops
- Charter & Head Boats



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Contents









Welcome Letter	2
General Information	4
Reward for Bluefin Tuna Tags	5
2015 Saltwater Fishing Permit	6
Become a Responsible Angler	9
Marine Fisheries Access Properties	12
Fishing Regulations	16
Game Fish Records	17
How to Measure Your Catch	17
Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby	18
Saltwater Fish Availability Calendar	20
Commonly Caught Species	21

Map of Massachusetts	
Coastal Waters (North)	27
Map of Massachusetts	
Coastal Waters (South)	29
Lobstering and Crabbing	30
Bait & Tackle Shop Directory	38
Charter & Head Boat Directory	41

On the Cover: Martha's Vineyard native and surf caster, Janet Messineo casts out for the big catch.

Photo by Mike Laptew www.MikeLaptewFineArtImages.com





Welcome to the Massachusetts recreational saltwater fishing experience!

Welcome to Massachusetts, home to some of the best saltwater fishing in the country! This recreational guide is produced annually by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) with the goal of providing you with plenty of information to make your recreational saltwater fishing experience a great one.

The 2015 Saltwater guide provides information about when and where to get onto the water to target whichever species you may be trying to catch. It also provides regulations for the recreational harvest of finfish, lobsters, and crabs, as well as locations where to launch your boat, buy angling supplies (bait and tackle shops), and find licensed captains that operate for-hire vessels to take you out on the water. Need to learn a new knot or rig for your repertoire?



Dr. Michael P. Armstrong, Assistant Director for Recreational Fisheries

We've got a few of the most common in here too. And if that isn't enough for you, there are also several articles highlighting projects aimed at continuing to improve recreational fishing in Massachusetts.

Getting kids outside and teaching them about fishing in saltwater was a big part of the summer of 2014. On page 8 you'll find a great article on *MarineFisheries*' inaugural youth fishing clinic. The money to fund this clinic came directly from your recreational permit dollars and this was just the start of great things to come in angler education! The public access "small grants" program (see page 10) was also a huge success in its inaugural year and allows for towns or other organizations to apply for up to \$10,000 to help fund projects that improve public access for saltwater recreational anglers.

Our mission is to manage the Commonwealth's living marine resources in balance with the environment resulting in sustainable fisheries. This means that sometimes as an agency, we need to make changes to bag and size limits so that we can properly manage the fish stocks that we all use. Please be sure to check our website before you head out on the water to be sure that you are up to date on any changes to regulations. All of our regulations are subject to change even during a season, so we will always have the current rules available to you.

We keep working to make fishing in the Massachusetts marine environment the best it can be, but you can help too. As responsible anglers (see page 9), your influence is essential for keeping fish and their environment in good shape. Now get out there and enjoy all that Massachusetts has to offer!

See you on the water!





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Matthew A. Beaton Secretary

Department of Fish and Game

Mary-Lee King Interim Commissioner

Division of Fish and Game

Paul J. Diodati *Director*

January 2015



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Vito Calomo - Gloucester Vice-Chairman

Bill Adler - Marshfield Chuck Casella - Georgetown Randy Sigler - Marblehead Joe Huckemeyer - W. Barnstable Ray Kane - Chatham Ed Nasser - New Bedford Domenic Santoro - Chatham



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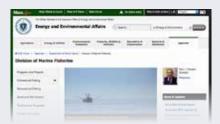


The Division of Marine Fisheries The Department of Fish and Game's Division of Marine Fisheries is responsible for the manage-

The Department of Fish and Game's Division of Marine Fisheries is responsible for the management of the Commonwealth's living marine resources. The Division promotes and develops commercial and recreational fisheries through research, technical assistance, and the collection of statistics. Biologists are assigned to regions of the state and interact with many federal, interstate, state, and local management agencies as well as private fisheries organizations. For further information contact your local Recreational Fisheries Biologists.

Visit our Home Page at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

To get up to date rule changes and notices you can also join the *MarineFisheries* Listserv. This is a notification list only, where you will receive timely information from the Division regarding fishery openings and closings, regulation changes and public hearing notices. We hope to use this Listserv to keep our constituents more informed and reduce our reliance on paper mail. Please encourage other interested parties to join this list.



The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries website has:

- Commercial and recreational regulations
- Saltwater Fishing Derby standings
- · Permit applications
- MarineFisheries publications and much more!

To join the list, send e-mail with nothing in the subject or body to:

join-marinefisheries@listserv.state.ma.us

To be removed, send e-mail to:

leave-marinefisheries@listserv.state.ma.us

Recreational Fisheries Program Biologists

South Shore Office:

Quest Center, 1213 Purchase St. New Bedford, MA 02740 (508) 990-2860 FAX: (508) 990-0449

John Boardman S.Shore/S.Coast

Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station:

30 Emerson Avenue Gloucester, MA 01930 (978) 282-0308 FAX: (617) 727-3337

Matt Ayer North Shore/Metro Boston

Boston Office:

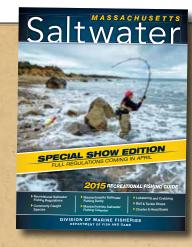
251 Causeway St., Suite 400 Boston. MA 02114 (617) 626-1520 FAX: (617) 626-1509



Office of Law Enforcement

Environmental Police Officers are responsible for enforcing Massachusetts fish and game laws including the commercial and recreational harvest of living marine resources. In addition they also enforce the Commonwealth's boating and recreational vehicle laws and regulations. Fishing violations can be reported to the following number:

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-632-8075



About this Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports MADMF's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries and habitat programs.

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ATLANTIC COD & STRIPED BASS Acoustic Tagging Research

MarineFisheries is conducting two tagging studies to investigate the coastal movements of striped bass and the spawning behaviour and movements of Atlantic cod. Fish have been internally tagged with acoustic transmitters and externally tagged with streamer tags.



Acoustically tagged striped bass



Acoustically tagged Atlantic cod



Acoustic Transmitte



Acoustic Receiver

If you recapture a tagged striped bass or cod:

Record the: Date caught, location, length, weight, and tag number.

If the fish is being harvested retain the internal tag.

To claim your reward contact:

MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Bill Hoffman (978) 282-0308 ext. 106 Bill.Hoffman@state.ma.us

Acoustic receivers will be deployed in the areas highlighted red in this map, Please be aware of the location of the receivers, and what they look like (left). Please do not disturb the receivers or mooring systems.



Get Your

2015 Saltwater Fishing Permit

Who Needs a Permit?

All fishermen age 16 or older that wish to engage in the recreational activity of finfishing, with the following exceptions:

- Fishermen who regardless of their age otherwise meet the definition of a disabled person in M.G.L. c. 19C
- Fishermen fishing on permitted for-hire vessels (charter/head boat)

Reciprocity

- All permitted MA residents may fish in the three neighboring coastal states (NH, RI, CT)
- Permitted fishermen from these three neighboring coastal states may also fish in MA waters

Permit Fee

- The fee for an individual fisherman (resident or non-resident) is \$10
- · No charge for fishermen age 60 or over

How will the permit fee money be used?

All money from permit fees will be deposited into a dedicated account and can only be used for implementing projects that will enhance recreational saltwater fishing including:

- Improvement of public access for recreational saltwater fishermen
- Development and implementation of education materials for the public
- Other marine recreational fishing programs approved by the recreational fishing development panel

To Obtain a 2015 Massachusetts Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permit:

Visit our website at:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

Call toll-free from 5am-5pm:

1-866-703-1925

For a list of permit vendor locations and to view frequently asked questions, please visit our website at:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

For questions please email:

marine.fish@state.ma.us

or call:

Boston – (617) 626-1520 **Gloucester** – (978) 282-0308 x150 **New Bedford** – (508) 990-2860 x150

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1139 N. Montello St., Brockton, MA (508) 588-1018

100 Broadway, Route 1N, Saugus, MA (781) 233-3900

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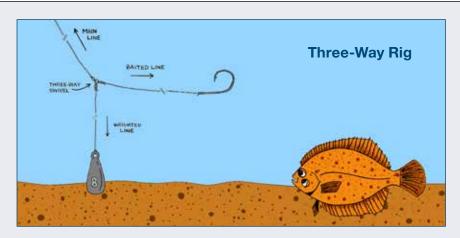
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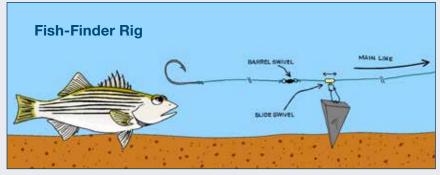


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Three-Way Rig: Gets its name from using a three-way swivel and is useful for catching striped bass, tautog, winter flounder, and just about any other bottom-dwelling species. Various lengths (6-24 inches) can be used for the weighed leader which carries the bait down in the water column. The baited leader (12-36 inches) presents live or dead bait when stationary or drifting and can be used to slow-troll plugs or other lures.

Fish-Finder Rig: A simple rig to set-up and tie that can be used when fishing for multiple species from shore. This rig allows for large pieces of bait to be presented and allows for the fish to ingest the bait before setting the hook. The weight on the slide swivel holds the line down but allows for the bait to be dropped back to fish such as striped bass, fluke, and many others.





These and more fishing knots are available on waterproof plastic cards at www.proknot.com

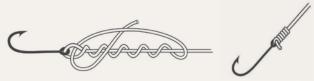
Improved Clinch Knot-

The improved clinch knot has become one of the most popular knots for tying terminal tackle connections. It is quick and easy to tie and is strong and reliable.

The knot can be difficult to tie in lines in excess of 30 lb test. Five+ turns around the standing line is generally recommended, four can be used in heavy line. This knot is not recommended with braided lines.



 Thread end of the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five or more turns around the standing line. Bring the end of the line through the first loop formed behind the eye, then through the big loop.

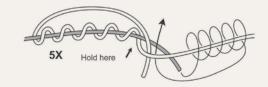


2. Wet knot and pull slightly on the tag end to draw up coils. Pull on the standing line to form knot with coils pressed neatly together.

3. Slide tight against eye and clip tag end.

Blood Knot-

Use this knot to join sections of leader or line together. It works best with line of approximately equal diameter.



 Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring tag end back between the two lines. Repeat with other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.



Slowly pull lines or leaders in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather.



3. Pull tight and clip ends closely.

2014

Fishing Clinic

In August, *MarineFisheries* hosted its inaugural youth fishing clinic. "Let's Go Fishing!" was held at the Bass River Fishing Pier in South Yarmouth, in cooperation with Yarmouth Parks and Recreation. The clear sky and warm temperatures drew a mighty crowd to this event on the Cape.

The fishing clinic began with a quick introduction in rod and reel safety. From there, families wandered through stations; each teaching a different element of responsible fishing. One station included life-size drawings of fish which participants then had to measure. After measuring, they would look up the species in the regulations to see if it was a "keeper" or if it should be released. A must at every fishing clinic is the knot tying station. At Let's Go Fishing!, anglers and their families practiced classic knots and even learned some new ones. For those who have never fished before, we had a "land angler" area where participating youth practiced casting — with no hooks! — on land before venturing onto the pier to fish. For those family members and friends not able to fish, and to add a little more fun, there was also a craft tent where everyone was invited to create a fish print with model fish. These prints, called *gyotaku*, were first done in Japan as a way to keep records of fish sizes and species. The prints gained popularity and soon people all over the world began creating them as works of art.

Of course, what fishing clinic is complete without fishing? After participants learned their knots and how to properly cast a line, they were invited to fish off the Bass River Pier. Registered youth, between the ages of seven and 15, borrowed rods and dropped baited lines down into the Atlantic. Although it took a little bit of patience from our young anglers, their efforts didn't go to waste. Cunner, scup, bluefish, and even a spider crab all made it over the railing and into pictures. The kids were all excited for their catches and excited again to release them back in the water as this was a catch and release event.

Aside from photographs and memories, registered participants also left the clinic with a starter tackle box. Inside the boxes were circle hooks donated by MustadUSA and Eagle Claw, rigs, a measuring tape, and sun block. In the afternoon directly following the event, parents emailed saying they went straight to a local tackle shop to buy a fishing rod and reel combo for their angler, and then went fishing again the same day.

With the success of this first fishing clinic event hosted by *MarineFisheries*, plans are

With the success of this first fishing clinic event hosted by *MarineFisheries*, plans are already in the works for fishing clinics to continue in the 2015 fishing season. While no locations or dates are set as of yet, plans include hosting clinics in different areas along the Massachusetts coastline. These future clinics will be for kids and families. There are also plans for creating a seminar series for anglers of all ages to learn baiting, filleting, and more angling techniques. All clinics and seminars will be free of charge and hosted by *MarineFisheries*. However, some will require prior registration. Clinic information for the 2015 season will be posted on the *MarineFisheries* website beginning in spring of 2015.

For more information, or to get on the fishing clinic email list, please contact Elaine Brewer at *elaine.brewer@state.ma.us* or (978) 282-0308 x 124. Information about fishing clinics and seminars will be posted on the *MarineFisheries* website at *www.mass.gov/dmf/clinics* when available in spring of 2015.









Become a Responsible Angler

Attach ALL tackle to the main line.

This helps prevent loss of tackle, which is costly to you and harmful to your target species!

Have a fair fight

Use appropriate tackle for the size and species of fish you are trying to catch. Stay focused when reeling in your catch; higher stress levels are associated with longer fight times and may reduce survival of released fish.

Waste not.

Catch a fish you weren't targeting? Release it properly anyway! They help maintain the ecosystem of the species you love to catch.

Pick Up Your Trash

Bring something to stash your trash so your favorite fishing spots stay clean. Also remember that your used monofilament can be recycled!

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Be mindful of the habitat around you. Stirring up silt and pulling eelgrass can damage the environment (and can stress fish enough to make them leave the area).

Use fish friendly hooks.

Circle hooks, along with wide gap and barbless hooks, greatly reduce the chance of lethally wounding fish. This is especially important in catch and release.

J hook





Limit your bag, don't bag your limit. Are you actually going to eat all those fish? How about you take enough for a meal and release the rest for another day.



Release fish properly.

If you can't keep the fish in the water, wet your hands before handling. Don't use the gills or eyes as finger holds. Support under the belly of large fish. Return fish to the water head first. If a hook is stuck, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.

Visit www.mass.gov/dmf/responsibleangler to learn more about becoming a responsible angler.



MarineFisheries strongly recommends the use of circle hooks for their proven ability to reduce mortality of released fish.



Introducing our Public Access Small Grant Program

New to MarineFisheries Public Access Project in 2014 was the Small Grant Program. After completing multiple large public fishing pier projects, this program made it possible to direct a portion of the monies collected from the sale of Massachusetts recreational saltwater fishing permits to small, and most often existing, public access sites. This is an important part of managing public access sites; over time, maintenance grows to include more than standard wear and tear. These small grants provide an avenue for repairing or improving these already existing sites. The only requirement of funded projects was that they allow open access to all legally permitted saltwater anglers. Of the varied project applications submitted for funding in 2014, those awarded a grant ranged from upgrading parking at given sites, to providing light for anglers, to improving walking access to shore-fishing sites. The maximum award amount for each project was \$10,000. Applications will be accepted each year for projects in Massachusetts coastal communities.



To left: the addition of riprap to the boat ramp and an aluminum gangway in Quincy.

Below: the cleared path in Rockport leading down to a shore fishing spot. During this first round of grants, *MarineFisheries* awarded funds to five coastal municipalities for projects as follows:

- Duxbury: This \$6,000 project added a fish cleaning station, complete with running water, lighting, and a webcam next to the Harbormaster's Office for anglers to check the conditions at the pier.
- Fall River: The \$10,000 project includes the installation of three LED light posts at the existing state boat ramp facility. The lighting will improve the safety of launching and retrieving boats at the facility.
- Quincy: The City of Quincy was awarded \$10,000 and rebuilt portions of a busy state boat ramp facility. The project involved installing riprap to protect the sides of the ramp. A section of welded aluminum gangway was also added to access the floating dock at the site.
- Rockport: Using \$3,500 in grant funds, the town hired an arborist to clear one and a half miles of trails on the Atlantic Pathway during the growing season. This path provides access to the water's edge at a local striped bass fishing location.
- Swansea: Using \$10,000 in grant funds, the town will create a new facility on town property along the Coles River that will provide automobile parking, bicycle parking, cartop vessel launch access, and shore fishing access.

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MarineFisheries Access Properties

Approximately one-half of all saltwater recreational fishing trips take place from shore.

Unfortunately, this highly popular method of fishing is being threatened by the rapidly accelerating loss of public access to coastal waters. Much of this loss is the direct result of acquisition and development of coastal properties by private parties who then post their holdings against public access. In Massachusetts, colonial law granted private ownership to the intertidal zone (the wet sand), but reserved the public rights of fishing, fowling, and navigation. Although the public rights were reserved for certain uses of the intertidal zone, it is often not possible to enjoy those rights because access across private property to the intertidal zone was never reserved.

To guarantee that the public has access to shore based fishing opportunities, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Department's Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA) with help from federal aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds, have made it a priority to find, acquire, and provide access by way of land acquisition of easements and/or tidal property.

Currently there are ten *MarineFisheries* properties and/or FBA properties or facilities providing anglers with access to shore fishing locations:

Wareham River Fish Pier, Wareham:

From Rt. 6 South in Wareham turn left onto Main St. just after crossing the Wareham River. The pier is located on the river just below Tobey Hospital. There is a parking area on the property.

Craven's Landing at Scortons Creek, Sandwich:

From 6A in East Sandwich turn onto Ploughed Neck Rd. At the end of Ploughed Neck Road, take a right onto North Shore Blvd. Take a right onto Holway Rd. Park only in designated spots. **Note** - parking area is flooded at high tide and 4WD/AWD is highly recommended due to soft sand in the parking area.

Popponesset Beach Shorefishing Area, Mashpee:

From Mashpee Rotary (Rts. 28 & 151) take Great Neck Rd. to Daniel's Island Rd. to Wading Place Rd. Parking is limited at the end of Wading Place Rd.

Parker River Fishing Pier, Yarmouth:

Off Main St. (Rt. 28). Parking is available at site (managed by the town of Yarmouth).

Bass River Fishing Pier, Yarmouth:

From Main St. turn onto South St. Go approximately 3/4 mile and fishing pier will be at end of parking lot on left (at the mouth of Bass River). Parking is available for both boat ramp and fishing pier use. Town charges fee during certain time of year (managed by the town of Yarmouth).

Dogfish Bar, Aquinnah:

From Vineyard Haven, take State Rd. towards Gay Head past Menemsha and Squibnocket Ponds. Take a right onto Lobsterville Rd. and then a left onto Lighthouse Rd. Then take a right onto Oxcart Rd., which parallels the beach. Park alongside the road.

Great Rock Bight Shorefishing Area, Chilmark:

Off North Rd. in Chilmark (managed by the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank).

Leland Beach, Edgartown:

From Chappaquiddick Island ferry dock, travel on Chappaquiddick Rd. until the road turns sharply to the right. Continue heading straight on Dike Bridge Rd. Park before or after bridge. The area is managed by the Trustees of Reservations; therefore, an entrance fee is required. If you want to drive your vehicle on the beach you will need an over sand vehicle permit. Call the Trustees Superintendent's Office for details (508) 627-7689.

The beach is also accessible via the Wasque Reservation entrance. Follow Chappaquiddick Rd. to the end and then take a left onto Pocha Rd. Pocha Rd. takes you to the entrance to Wasque.

Fore River Shorefishing Area, Quincy:

From Sea St. take Palmer St. to Yardarm St. Take a right at Doane St. Park at the end of Doane St.

Broad Cove Shorefishing Area, Somerset:

On the Taunton River. From Route 138 take North St. east to Pleasant St. Head North on Pleasant St. to the shorefishing area (managed by the town of Somerset). Park at the site.



For a full listing of access sites see pages 25-29

Article: Volunteer Recreational Angler Program

™ Sportfish Angler **D**ata Collection Team



Above: A striped bass otolith (similar to our earbones) used to age the fish.

Above right: An angler takes a non-lethal scale sample and length of a sublegal striped bass for ageing.



The Sportfish Angler Data Collection Team (SADCT) is a voluntary program that was started by MarineFisheries in 2002, as part of the Atlantic coastwide effort to manage striped bass. In 2013, the program expanded to include black sea bass, summer flounder (fluke), and scup. Data collected by volunteers are provided to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for use in interstate management and stock assessment efforts.

Anglers who join the SADCT team are asked to collect biological data including length

measurements and scale samples (10 per species per month). Those interested in the preservation and management of recreationally important finfish species can join the SADCT team by contacting Kimberly Trull at the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries at 978-282-0308 x130 or by emailing kimberly.trull@ state.ma.us. Participants receive a hat after their first year sampling, along with an individual report summarizing what they caught, location of catch, and average age.



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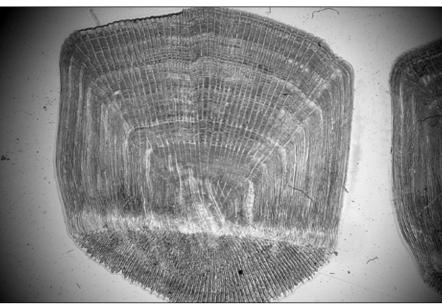
Article: Volunteer Recreational Angler Program

Scales, like trees, lay down rings (called annuli) that can be used to determine age, making them an important tool in stock assessments and management. However, scales are not the only way to age finfish species. Other calcified hard structures such as the opercula (gill coverings), spines, and otoliths (ear stones) also lay down annuli and can be used in age determination.

It is not uncommon to use multiple ageing structures in combination with one another to determine age. Although scales are a non lethal way to determine age—and are the easiest for anglers to collect—they are not always usable. For some species, the annuli on scales of older fish grow increasingly closer together, making it difficult to precisely age these fish. In such cases when scale-based ageing is no longer exact, we turn to other hard ageing structures. Unfortunately, the downside to using both opercula and otoliths is that they are lethal to remove from fish. In some species, like the black sea bass, spines are a non lethal option and can be taken by volunteer anglers.

The age data collected are used in coastwide stock assessments. These data can tell us which year-class is experiencing the highest mortality and be used to track growth of the overall stock, facilitating proper management of that species.

In 2009, MarineFisheries created an Age and Growth Laboratory dedicated to the ageing of recreationally important finfish species. Con-



A striped bass scale which is used as part of the ageing process.

ducting all of the Division's ageing in one facility with consistent staff increases efficiency and precision in age determination. In 2014, the Age and Growth Lab cleaned, processed, and aged hard part structures from recreational finfish samples of bluefish, black sea bass, river herring (alewife and blueback herring), American shad, rainbow smelt, striped bass, tautog, winter flounder, scup, and summer flounder.

Please Immediately Report Sightings of Entangled Marine Animals

Call 1-800-900-3622 (Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies in MA, NH, and RI) or 1-877-775-6622 (NOAA).

Sightings can also be reported to the Coast Guard on Channel 16.











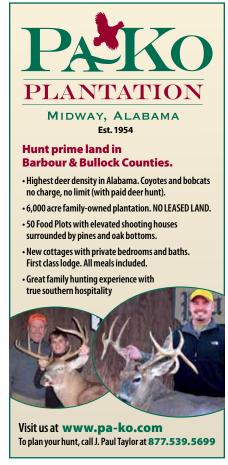




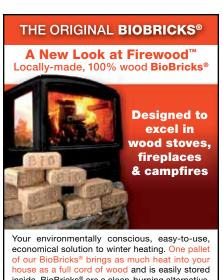
2014 Ageing Results

Samples processed for age in 2014; all samples were collected in 2014.

Species	sies Structure Process		Quantity (Fish)
Bluefish	Otoliths	Baked, Sectioned, Aged	114
Black Sea Bass	Otoliths and Scales	Cleaned, Mounted, Aged	783
River Herring	Otoliths and Scales	Cleaned, Mounted, Aged	6,743
American Shad	can Shad Otoliths and Scales Otoliths aged, scales checked for repeat spawning		340
Striped Bass	Striped Bass Otoliths Ex Section		209
Striped Bass	Scales	Cleaned, Pressed, Aged	1969
Tautog	Tautog Otoliths and Oper-Cleaned, Sectioned, Aged		200
Winter Flounder	ter Flounder Otolith Sectioned and Aged		1,041







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Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations listed below are subject to change during the 2015 season.

Species	Note	Min. Size	Open Periods	Possession Limits			
American Eel	(1)	9"	All Year	25 fish			
American Shad	(2)	None	All Year	Closed with exceptions			
Black Sea Bass	(3)	14"	May 23 – August 27	8 fish			
Blue Marlin		Fe	ederal rules apply. Consult N	OAA Fisheries.			
Bluefish		None	All Year	10 fish			
Cod (North of Cape Cod)	(4)		Prohibited				
Cod (South & East of Cape Cod)		22"	All Year	10 fish			
Dab (Plaice)		14"	All Year	None			
Fluke		16"	May 22 – September 23	5 fish			
Gray Sole (Witch)		14"	All Year	None			
Haddock	See w	ww.mas	ss.gov/marinefisheries for cu	rrent regulations.			
Halibut		41"	All Year	1 fish			
Monkfish		None	All Year	None			
Pollock		None	All Year	None			
Redfish		None	All Year	None			
River Herring		Harvest, possession, sale and use are prohibited.					
Sailfish		Fe	ederal rules apply. Consult N	OAA Fisheries.			
	Private	10"	May 1 – December 31	30 fish			
Scup	For-Hire Bonus	10"	May 1 – June 30	45 fish			
	For-Hire Regular	10"	July 1 – December 31	30 fish			
Sharks (excludes spiny dogfish)	See w	ww.mas	ss.gov/marinefisheries for cu	rrent regulations.			
Smelt		None	June 16 - March 14	50 fish			
Spiny Dogfish		None	All year	None			
Striped Bass	(5)	28"	All year	1 fish			
Tautog		16"	All year	3 fish			
Tunas		Fe	ederal rules apply. Consult N	OAA Fisheries.			
Weakfish		16"	All year	1 fish			
White Marlin		Fe	ederal rules apply. Consult N	OAA Fisheries.			
White Perch		8" All year 25 fish					
Windowpane Flounder		Prohibited					
Winter Flounder (North of Cape Cod)		12" All year 8 fish					
Winter Flounder (South & East of Cape Cod)		12" March 1 – December 31 2 fish					
Wolffish		Prohibited					
Yellowtail Flounder		13" All year None					

Prohibitions

Snagging, snatching of anadromous fish: including shad, smelt, white perch, striped bass, trout, and salmon, but excluding alewives or blueback herring.

The taking of striped bass by any means other than hook and line.

To "high-grade" striped bass, i.e. the discard of dead, legal size striped bass.

To retain live striped bass in the water by attaching to a stringer or placing in a live well or holding car.

The taking of billfish using gear other than a rod and reel.

The taking of Atlantic salmon, sturgeon, all marine mammals, all sea turtles, and the diamond back terrapin from Massachusetts waters.

For anyone, except the owner, to handle, destroy, or molest any lobster or crab pot or other fishing gear, including any gear swept up on the shore, beaches or flats whether public or private, or to take fish there from.

To sell, barter, or exchange fish or shellfish without a commercial permit.

Notes

- 1) Subject to regulation by the Division and local community. Consult local regulations.
- 2) American Shad is a catch and release fishery, except for on the Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers where anglers may retain up to 3 fish per day.
- 3) Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.
- 4) Federal rules apply beyond state waters. Consult NOAA Fisheries for permitting requirements and regulations.
- 5) Striped bass must be kept whole, with head, tail and body intact no mutilation permitted (other than evisceration). Note: Permitted party/charter vessel operators may fillet striped bass for their customers. See 322 CMR 6.07 (4)(g) for details.

Massachusetts Saltwater Fish Records

eight	Location	Date	Angler	
Species Weight Location			7.119101	
acore 65 lb. Canyons 8/23/03		8/23/03	Tommy Good	
11 lb.	Oceanographer Canyon	8/28/10	Randy Parda	
15 oz.	Buzzard's Bay	5/12/07	Aaron Costa	
o. 4 oz.	Graves Light	9/11/82	Louis Gordon	
28 lb.	Cape Cod Bay	9/23/84	Marlene Goldstein	
11 lb.	Fishtails	7/26/92	Walter Morrison	
b. 2 oz.	Jefferies Ledge	8/9/11	Ethan Lynch	
o. 8 oz.	New Bedford Dike	9/23/02	Eddie Gomez	
2 lb.	Jeffreys Ledge	7/5/87	Robert Radzik	
o. 8 oz.	North River	1/21/86	James Lewis	
o. 4 oz.	Stellwagen Bank	7/15/90	Gabe Silvestrone	
o. 3 oz.	Veatch Canyon	8/8/09	Ty Warren	
o. 5 oz.	Edgartown	9/27/90	Donald MacGillivray	
o. 8 oz.	Nomans Island	9/25/80	Joseph Czapiga	
0 lb.	Stellwagen Bank	1972	Don Rehnstrom	
0 lb.	Boston 8/3/74 Lightship		Joseph Gelsomini	
falibut 321 lb. Mass		7/21/65	Norman Cournoyer	
. 6 oz.	Lucas Shoals	9/27/08	Tim Broderick	
. 8 oz.	Hampton Shoal	10/9/94	Steve Ostrander	
Mako Shark 1324 lb. Massachusetts Bay		7/27/99	Kevin Scola	
48 lb. 2 oz. Cashes Ledge 9/14/92		9/14/92	Sal Mocerino	
5 lb.	Off Vineyard	7/22/11	Jesse Siegel	
14 oz.	Nomans Island	10/17/83	Robert Pimental	
lb.	Vineyard Sound	10/8/11	Joe Canha	
3 lb.	Quicks Hole	1913	Charles Church	
3 lb.	Sow and Pigs	1967	Charles Cinto	
3 lb.	Nauset Beach	11/3/81	Anton Stetzko	
6 lb.	Nomans Island	1972	Albert Little	
o. 9 oz.	Gay Head	6/29/78	Michael Horsely	
0 lb.	,	7/23/11	Timothy Delude	
b. 5 oz.	,	2006	Kenneth Abbott	
	Buzzards Bav		George Mahoney	
	,		Ted Nfatzger	
. 2 oz.	Georges Bank	7/12/96	Tom Hillebrand	
5 lb.	Cape Cod Bav	6/19/00	Andrew Glovsky	
7 lb.			Mark Boujoukos	
	11 lb. 15 oz. 28 lb. 28 lb. 11 lb. b. 2 oz. 2 lb. 2 lb. 3 oz. 2 lb. 3 oz. 2 lb. 5 oz. 5 oz. 6 oz. 6 oz. 6 oz. 6 oz. 6 oz. 6 oz. 7 lb. 7 lb. 8 oz. 9 lb. 14 lb. 15 lb. 14 oz. 15 lb. 14 oz. 15 lb. 16 lb. 17 lb. 18 oz. 19 oz. 11 lb. 19 oz. 11 lb. 10 lb. 11 lb. 11 lb. 12 oz. 15 lb. 13 lb. 14 oz. 15 lb. 15 lb. 16 lb. 17 lb. 18 oz. 19 oz. 11 lb. 19 oz. 11 lb. 10 lb. 11 lb. 11 lb. 12 oz. 11 lb. 13 lb. 14 oz. 15 lb. 15 lb. 16 lb. 17 lb. 18 lb. 19 oz. 19 oz. 11 lb. 10 lb. 11 lb. 11 lb. 12 oz. 15 lb.	Oceanographer Canyon 15 oz. Buzzard's Bay 28 lb. Cape Cod Bay 11 lb. Fishtails 28 lb. Jefferies Ledge 29 lb. Jeffreys Ledge 20 lb. Jeffreys Ledge 20 lb. Jeffreys Ledge 20 lb. Jeffreys Ledge 20 lb. Jeffreys Ledge 21 lb. Jeffreys Ledge 22 lb. Jeffreys Ledge 23 lb. Jeffreys Ledge 24 lb. Stellwagen Bank 25 lb. Stellwagen Bank 26 lb. Stellwagen Bank 27 lb. Boston 28 lib. Boston 29 lb. Lucas Shoals 21 lb. Massachusetts Bay 21 lb. Massachusetts Bay 22 lb. Jeffreys 23 lb. Massachusetts Bay 24 lb. Massachusetts Bay 25 lb. Off Vineyard 26 lb. Vineyard Sound 27 lb. Sow and Pigs 28 lb. Sow and Pigs 29 lb. Nauset Beach 20 lb. Sow and Pigs 30 lb. Nauset Beach 31 lb. Sow and Pigs 31 lb. Nauset Beach 32 lb. Sow and Pigs 33 lb. Nauset Beach 34 lb. Nomans Island 35 lb. Sow and Pigs 36 lb. Nomans Island 37 lb. Sow and Pigs 38 lb. Nauset Beach 39 lb. Nauset Beach 40 lb. Nomans Island 40 lb	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	

How to Measure Your Catch



For Massachusetts marine waters minimum fish sizes are measured as **total length**. This is the greatest straight line length (not curved over the body) in inches as measured on a fish with its mouth closed from the anterior tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extremity of the tail. Fish should be firmly grasped with both hands for proper measuring. Care should be taken so that the head of the fish firmly contacts the zero mark on rulers and tapes simultaneously with the tail extremity.

Exceptions:



Tunas are measured using curved fork length. This is in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.



Sharks are measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.



Swordfish, sailfish and marlin are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the tail fork.



Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.

Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby

Sponsored by MarineFisheries

At the end of each derby year, trophies will be awarded to anglers who landed the heaviest fish in each species category. Winners will be chosen in three divisions: men's, women's, and junior's (age fifteen and younger). In addition, a "Skillful Skipper" award is presented to any charter or head boat captains having three derby winning fish caught on their boat per year.

The derby runs from January 1 through November 30 each year and is open to all age groups. Fish entered must be caught in a fair and sporting manner, on hook and line, and must be measured and weighted on a certified scale at an official weight station. Weighmasters can be found at most local marinas and tackle shops (see list beginning on page 38 or go to www.mass.gov/marinefisheries). We would also like to remind participants that every entry must be caught in state waters and/or first landed in a Massachusetts port.

To enter, fill out an official affidavit from our website and have it certified at a weigh station. Please write clearly and provide all information requested. Affidavits that are illegible or incomplete cannot be accepted. Mail affidavits to: Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby, Quest Center, 1213 Purchase St. New Bedford, MA 02740. Entries must be received within 30 days of catch and be postmarked no later than December 4th.

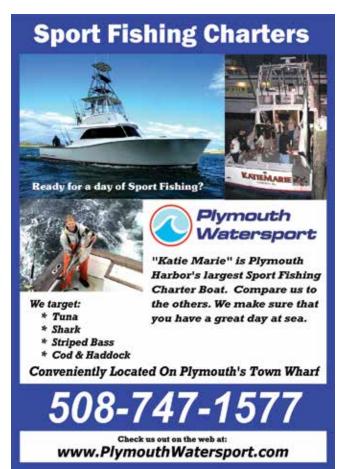
Eligible Species	Minimum WT (lb.)
Albacore	30
Bigeye Tuna	100
Black Sea Bass	4
Bluefish	12
Bluefin Tuna	500
Blue Shark	300
Bonito	5
Cod	30
Cusk	20
Dolphin	15
False Albacore	10
Fluke	7
Haddock	8
Halibut	50
King Mackerel	6

Special awards are offered for new state records. If your catch exceeds the weight listed on the current list of Massachusetts Saltwater Gamefish Records, you may qualify for a special award. All weigh stations have been

Eligible Species	Minimum WT (lb.)
Mackerel	2
Mako	150
Pollock	12
Porbeagle Shark	150
Scup	2
Spanish Mackerel	4
Striped Bass	35
Swordfish	150
Tautog	8
Thresher Shark	200
Wahoo	30
Weakfish	8
Winter Flounder	3
Yellowfin Tuna	50

provided with a copy of the current list. When applying for a new state record your affidavit must be accompanied by a clear photograph of your catch with your name, address, and telephone number on the back.

TM





The WTTER

2014 Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby Winners

Species	Category	Angler	Weight		
Black Sea	Men	Eddie Cheung	6 lb. 9 oz.		
Bass	Junior	Lucas Amaral	5 lb. 6 oz.		
Bluefish	Men	Arthur Wood	19 lb.		
Diuelisti	Junior	Will Chatterton	16 lb. 2 oz.		
	Men	Ken Panacek	9 lb. 14 oz.		
Bonito	Women	Maryann Nunes-Vais	8 lb. 1 oz.		
	Junior	Pibb Wright	5 lb. 6 oz.		
Cusk	Junior	Hannah Hibbert	24 lb. 14 oz.		
False Albacore	lunior		13 lb. 3 oz.		
Fluke	Men	Ed Buccigross	9 lb. 10 oz.		
riuke	Women	Marion Pope	9 lb. 3 oz.		
	Men	Capt. Mike Black	3 lb. 15 oz.		
Scup	Women	Elizabeth Soares	2 lb. 8 oz.		
	Junior	Trevor Kobza	3 lb.		
Spanish Mackerel	Men	Richard Trifone	4 lb. 7 oz.		

Species	Category	Angler	Weight	
	Men	Scott Ledin	57 lb. 11 oz.	
Striped Bass	Women	Mary Gagnon	41 lb. 8 oz.	
·	Junior	Michael Bridges	42 lb. 14 oz.	
Tautog	Men	John Serra	12 lb. 14 oz.	
Wahoo	Men	Mark Kokoszka	80 lb.	
	Winter Flounder Women Scott Filion Women RoseAnne Dimino		4 lb. 12 oz.	
			3 lb. 1 oz.	
Junior		Stephen Stroz.	3 lb. 12 oz.	
Yellowfin Tuna	Junior	Aidan Gates	56 lb. 13 oz.	

2014 Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Catch and Release Derby Winners

Species	Name	Length
False Albacore	Matthew Welsh	30"
Striped Bass	Mark Remlinger	49"

Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Catch and Release Derby

Additional Rules for Catch and Release Awards

Obtain and complete an official derby affidavit from www.mass.gov/marinefisheries. Fish must be released alive—no use of gaffs or harpoons. Fish must be boated and measured for total length (closed jaw to tip of tail, tail may be squeezed together for measurement) except for false albacore which is measured to the fork of the tail. Lengths should be measured to the nearest 1/2 inch.

A photograph of the fish should be included with the affidavit at the time of submission. Exceptions will be made for digital photos which can be e-mailed in a timely manner to *john.boardman@state.ma.us*. The photo must show the side profile of the fish and include a clearly discernible measuring device.

Anglers may submit multiple entries but may earn only one citation per species per year. Only one trophy will be given for the largest of each species per year. Catch and release of any four eligible species by an angler within the year will qualify for a "Grand Slam" release award. Only one "Grand Slam" award will be given out per year to the greatest cumulative length. In the event of a tie for any catch and release award, the earliest entry will be used as the tiebreaker.

Eligible Species	Minimum Lengths
Bluefish	35"
Cod	42"
False Albacore	26"
Fluke	24"
Striped Bass	45"
Winter Flounder	19"



Saltwater Fish Availability Calendar

Poor

Good

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Atlantic Cod												
Black Sea Bass												
Bluefin Tuna												
Bluefish												
Bonito												
Cusk												
False Albacore												
Haddock												
Mackerel												
Pollock												
Scup												
Smelt												
Striped Bass												
Summer Flounder												
Tautog												
Winter Flounder												

Best

Use this saltwater fishing calendar as a general reference to the avail-

ability of the commonly targeted recreational finfish of Massachusetts.

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R24 CAYMAN
RESISTANCE
R25 SALSES
R25

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Commonly Caught Species

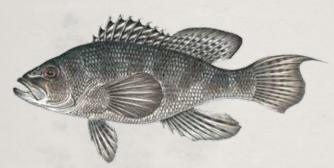


Striped Bass

Striped bass is our most sought-after species, providing great sport through catch and release fishing and great eating when you catch a "keeper". Striped bass is one of the largest fish available to the nearshore angler. Fish range from 1 pound to over 60 pounds.

Location: Whole coast surf, inshore bars, reefs, tide-rips, bays, and estuaries. Season: Mid April-October

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, eels, squid, herring; jigs, plugs, spinners, spoons. Methods and Tackle: Casting from shore, boat-trolling; light to heavy tackle. Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 35 lb.



Black Sea Bass

The migratory black sea bass is a tasty fish arriving in our near shore waters in the late spring. These fish also have a peculiar life cycle - the majority begin life as females and then change to males at around three years of age

Location: South side of Cape Cod, Buzzards Bay to Rhode Island border and a few are found in Cape Cod Bay. Fish for them around bottom structure such as reefs, rocks, and wrecks.

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Cut squid, clams, green crabs.

Methods and Tackle: Bottom fish from a boat.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 4 lb.



"Tog", "white chin" and "black fish" are all common nicknames for this fish. Tautog are very slow growing compared to most fish and do not migrate far from where they originate but move inshore in the spring and offshore in the

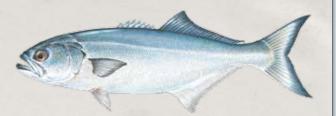
Location: Whole coast, rocky bottoms inshore, bays, harbors, jetties, breakwaters.

Season: April-November

Baits and Lures: Crabs, clams, all shellfish.

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing from boat or shore, medium action spinning or conventional rod, 20-30 lb test line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 8 lb.



Bluefish

Bluefish are usually ravenous and will strike at just about anything you give them. Watch out for those teeth! They average around 3-7 pounds along the coast and tend to be larger just offshore in the rips. The juveniles, referred to as "snappers," can be found in the estuaries and are fun to catch with light tackle. In all cases, they put up an excellent fight all the way to your boat or

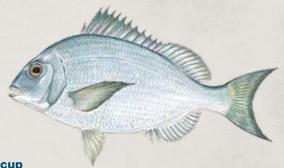
Location: Whole coast surf, inshore bars, tide rips, bays, and estuaries.

Season: June-mid October

Baits and Lures: All small bait fish, jigs, spoons, plugs, spinners, flies.

Methods and Tackle: Casting from shore or boat (you may want to use a wire leader) with spin and fly fishing gear, trolling.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 12 lb.



Scup

A party boat staple, scup are easy and fun to catch. Scup are very good eating though be careful of the many bones.

Location: South side of Cape Cod and along coast to Rhode Island

Season: May-October

Baits and Lures: Clams, strips of squid, seaworms.

Methods and Tackle: Light- to medium-weight tackle, drift-fishing, jetties, piers, bridges.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: 2 lb.



Weakfish (Squeteague)

The weakfish looks like a large trout and is found in Massachusetts waters during the summer months. Often found feeding alongside striped bass.

Location: Southern Massachusetts sandbars, deep water drop offs, channels, bays and estuaries

Season: Late June-September

Baits and Lures: Shrimp, seaworms, tinker mackerel, eels, strips of squid; artificial lures (bright plastic shrimp, worms, bucktails, tubes, jigs, sand eel imitations)

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing, drifting, chumming, casting from shore or boat, trolling; light to medium tackle.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 8 lb.

Commonly Caught Species



The winter flounder (black back) provides good fishing during the cold weather months. They are very accessible and provide the angler with thick fillets

Location: Whole coast, tidal streams, shallow bays, estuaries.

Season: May-February

Baits and Lures: Sandworms, bloodworms, clams, strips of squid.

Methods and Tackle: Chum pot (crushed clams), still-fishing from boats, piers, jetties, bridges, breakwaters; light tackle

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 3 lb.





Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Fighting ability and fine flavor highlight this flatfish. The upper surface of the summer flounder head faces left. They also have prominent teeth to assist with their aggressive predatory behavior. Larger fluke are referred to as "doormats". Target sandy or muddy bottom along with fast moving rips that contain debris and bait fish.

Location: South side of Cape Cod, Islands, Cape Cod Bay, Buzzards Bay.

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Minnows, squid strips, clams, shrimp; spinners, jigs. Methods and Tackle: Drift-fishing, troll, chum, still fish, casting.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 7 lb.



Mackerel

Mackerel are fast swimmers and voracious feeders, which offers the angler many options for catching them. They are also an important food fish for many other species of fish and marine mammals.

Location: Whole coast, deep water to shallow bays, beaches, jetties, canal,

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Small bait fish, crab, clams, seaworms, squid strips, jigs, spoons, flies

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, jigging, casting from shore or boat: light

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 2 lb.

Tunas: Bluefin (top) and Yellowfin (below)

All the tunas are very swift swimmers, provide a thrilling and sometimes backbreaking fight and are literally hot blooded. The giant bluefin tuna is the biggest and most lucrative of the tunas in our waters and thus creates much competition amongst fishermen. Yellowfin are commonly caught in near offshore waters as are albacore.

Location: Offshore east of North Shore, Cape Cod Bay, East of Cape Cod, South of Islands, offshore in Canyons

Season: Late June-October

Baits and Lures: Bait fish used with chum slick; plastic squids, multi-squid rigs, daisy chains, jigs, artificial lures

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, chunk baits with chum; medium to heavy tackle

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Yellowfin tuna 50 lb., bluefin tuna 500 lb.



Bonito

Sharpen your reflexes because these small tunas are fast and fun to catch. Watch for feeding schools where there will be jumpers. For a quick identification, look for dark bands running the length of the fish above the lateral line and a silvery belly.

Location: Southern Cape Cod and the Islands, rarely north of Cape Cod. Season: Late July-October

Baits and Lures: Strip baits, squid, small jigs, spoons, plugs, flies.

Methods and Tackle: Spinning gear, bait casting, light boat rods, trolling, fly fishing.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 5 lb.



False Albacore (Little Tunny)

False albacore are very similar to bonito - fast, fun and sometimes a bit tricky to catch. However, unlike bonito, they make poor table fare.

Location: Mostly warmer waters of the south side of Cape Cod and the

Season: Late July-October

Baits and Lures: Same as for bonito Methods and Tackle: Same as for bonito

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 10 lb.



Cod

Cod are the deepwater treasures of Massachusetts. They are the number one fish sought after by party boats north of Cape Cod.

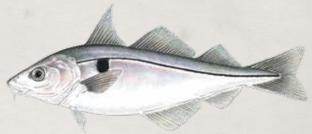
Location: Whole coast, deepwater, inshore while water is cold.

Season: Year round.

Baits and Lures: Sea worms, clams, mackerel, strips of all fish, crabs, jigs. Methods and Tackle: Bait-fishing from shore and boats, fishing from boats

using medium to stiff boat rod, conventional reel and at least 50 lb. test line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 30 lb.



Haddock

Haddock is a member of the cod family and is a delicious fish for the dinner table. The black lateral line distinguishes it from the cod and pollock.

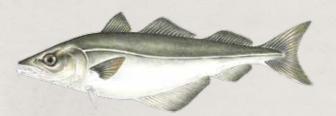
Location: Whole coast, cool waters, prefer depths of 140-450 ft., also prefers shell/sand, smooth rock, or gravel bottom.

Season: May-November

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, clams

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing from a boat, medium action rod

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: 8 lb.



Pollock

The pollock is more available to the angler than its codfish relative. These aggressive fighters offer the thrills of a bluefish and the flesh of a cod.

Location: Whole coast with more north of Plymouth. Inshore (breakwaters and other structures) and offshore depending on the water temperatures. Inshore, pollock tend to be smaller than those offshore.

Season: May-October with the best runs in May, October

Baits and Lures: Same as cod, plus metal lures with a strip of squid.

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing, casting, trolling. For deep water use same set up as for cod. Lighter spinning gear can be used for inshore fishing.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: 12 lb.



Cusk

Like the cod, the cusk is a cool water fish and is found on hard, rough bottom habitat. Look for the continuous dorsal fin to assist with identification.

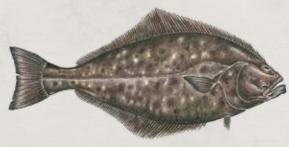
Location: Rocky ledges/hard bottom, moderately deep waters (more than 75 feet).

Season: Year round.

Baits and Lures: Same as cod.

Methods and Tackle: Same as cod.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 20 lb.



Halibut

This is the largest of the Atlantic flatfishes, which if you do happen to hook one, can be very challenging to reel up from deep water.

Location: Whole coast, cool and deep waters, preferred bottom type is sand, gravel or clay not soft mud or rock.

Season: Year round

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, clams, strips of fish, sandlance, jigs.

Methods and Tackle: Fishing from a boat with medium to stiff rod.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 50 lb.



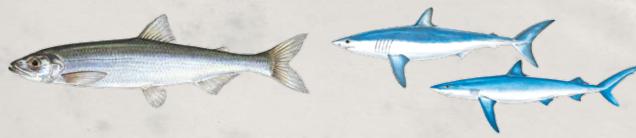
Wolffish (Ocean Catfish)

Wolfish are distinguished by their large size, pronounced molar and canine teeth, and the lack of ventral fins. They do not school and prefer hard bottom, not mud, in deep waters.

Location: Whole coast, deep water, incidental to cod fishing.

Possession Prohibited

Commonly Caught Species



Smelt

This small anadromous fish is a seasonal favorite along the coast. They're accessible prior to the spawning runs up coastal streams during the late winter and early spring.

Location: Whole coast, estuaries, the mouths of coastal rivers, and within coastal rivers.

Season: September-February

Baits and Lures: Blood worms, sand worms, grass shrimp, small local bait fish Methods and tackle: Ice fishing, shore fishing—keep bait moving slowly up and down within the school; light tackle, hand line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: Not an eligible species.

Sharks: Blue (bottom) and Shortfin Mako (top)

Blue and mako sharks are common to our offshore waters and are sought after by recreational anglers. Makos are the more aggressive of the two fish and will put up an exciting fight. Venture with an experienced shark angler to prevent unexpected surprises and make sure you bleed and ice the shark flesh immediately. Anglers are encouraged to release sharks not intended for consumption.

Location: South of the Islands, East of Cape Cod, off North shore including Cape Cod Bay.

Season: June-October

Baits and Lures: Chumming and baited hooks (preferably oily fish)

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, drifting; medium to heavy tackle, wire leader.

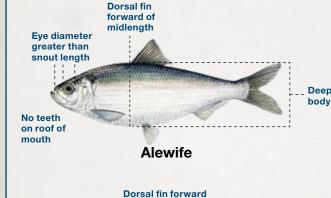
Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: Blue shark 300 lb.;

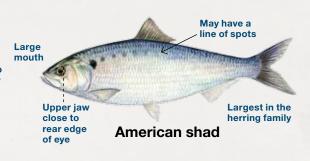
Mako shark 150 lb.

Herring of Massachusetts

A variety of herring frequent MA coastal and estuarine waters and can be confusing to identify. River herring (alewife and blueback herring) and American shad are generally seen during spring spawning runs. Menhaden and Atlantic herring may appear in our estuaries during coastal migration in the summer or early fall.











Atlantic menhaden

Note: The harvest and possession of river herring (Alewife and Bluebacks) is prohibited in Massachusetts.

Note:

Use of some ramps requires a fee or a parking sticker that may be purchased in advance. Some town parking facilities are limited to town residents only (RO) and noted where applicable. Fish and Game Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA) current or future facilities are italicized. * indicates a shore fishing area. For more information visit the FBA website at: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/fba/

indicates a shore listling area. For more information visit the FBA v					
Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
NORTH	SHC	RE:			
Salisbury					
State Beach	3		•	Paved	All
Amesbury					
Town Landing Merrimac St. (RO)			•	Paved	All
Newbury					
Newbury Town Landing (RO)			•	Paved	All
Newburyport					
Cashman Park			•	Paved	All
Merri-Mar Yacht Basin			•	Paved	All
Ferry Landing			•	Paved	All
Water Street			•	Cartop	1/2
Rowley					
Perley's Marina			•	Paved	All
Ipswich					
Town Landing, East Street			•	Paved	All
Water Street		1	•	Paved	All
Essex					
Essex Marina, Dodge Street			•	Paved	All
Pike's Marina, Main Street			•	Paved	All
Rockport					
Granite Pier		1	•	Paved	All
Gloucester					
Dunfugin Landing			•	Paved	All
Corliss Landing			•	Paved	1/2
Lanes Cove			•	Paved	1/2
Long Wharf			•	Paved	All
Manchester					
Town Hall			•	Paved	All
Beverly					
River Street			•	Paved	All
Water Street			•	Paved	All
Danvers					
Popes Landing			•	Paved	All
Salem					
Kernwood Bridge			•	Paved	All
Winter Island			•	Paved	All
Willows		1			
Marblehead					
Causeway			•	Paved	1/2
Riverhead Beach			•	Paved	1/2
Lynn					
DCR Pier/Route 1A		1			
Lynn Municipal Ramp,			•	Paved	All
Blossom St.				, avou	7 (11
DCR Playground			•	Paved	All
		_		i aveu	ΔII
Seaport Landing Marina		1			

				g/iba/	
Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
Nahant					
Town Wharf			•	Paved	All
Saugus					
Fishermen's Outlet			•	Paved	All
Winthrop					
Shirley Street			•	Paved	All
Boston					
Castle Island	1	1			
Charlestown Navy Yd. at Pier 4		1			
Puopolo Park					
Charles River Res.					
Commercial Street		1			
Dorchester					
Rainbow Park, Commercial St.					
SOUTH	SHO	RF-			
Quincy		1111			
Town River Marine			•	Paved	All
				Paveu	All
666 Southern Artery					
Bay's Water Marine			•	Paved	1/2
128 Bayview Avenue					
Sea Avenue			•	Paved	1/2
Fore River, Doane St.*					
Weymouth					
Back River			•	Paved	All
Hingham					
Iron Horse Station, Route 3A			•	Paved	All
Hull					
"A" St. Marine		1	•	Paved	All
Goulds Boat Shop			•	Paved	All
Pemberton Point		1	•	Paved	All
Priscilla Sails			•	Paved	All
Cohasset					
Parker Avenue			•	Paved	1/2
Scituate					
Cole Parkway			•	Paved	All
Driftway Recreation Area			•	Gravel	All
North River Marine			•	Paved	All
Scituate Harbor	1	3	٠	Paved	All
Marshfield					
Brick Kiln Road (canoe only)			•	Gravel	All
Green Harbor Marina			•	Paved	All
Humarock, Ferry Street (RO)			•	Gravel	All
Humarock Marine			•	Paved	All
Mary's Livery			•	Paved	All
Town Pier, Green Harbor			•	Paved	All
Union Street (canoe only)			•	Gravel	All

				0	
Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
Duxbury					
Bay Marine Corp.			•	Paved	All
Mattakeeset Ct.		2	•	Paved	All
Kingston					
Town Landing, River Street			•	Paved	1/2
Plymouth					
Taylor Avenue (4-WD only)			•	Sand	All
Town Wharf	1	1	•	Paved	All
Wareham					
Fishing Pier, Route 6		2			
East Boulevard, Onset			•	Paved	All
Maco's, Rt. 6-28			•	Paved	All
Oak St., Tempest Knob			•	Paved	All
Route 195 Eastbound rest area			•	Paved	1/2
Mattapoisett					
Short Wharf, Water Street		2	•	Paved	All
Town Landing,			•	Gravel	1/2
Matt Neck Road					
Fairhaven					
Pease Park, Middle Street			•	Paved	All
Hoppy's Landing			•	Paved	All
Seaview Avenue,			•	Paved	All
Sconticut Neck					
New Bedford					
East Rodney French					
Boulevard, H Street	2	1	•	Paved	All
West Rodney French					
Boulevard	4		•	Paved	All
Dartmouth					
Padanaram			•	Paved	All
Westport					
Gooseberry Island			•	Paved	1/2
Rte. 88 Bridge			•	Paved	All
Fall River					
Brownell Street	1		•	Paved	All
Freetown					
Water Street, Assonet			•	Paved	1/2
Swansea					
Cole River, Ocean Grove Ave.			•	Paved	All
Somerset					
Brayton Point Rd.			•	Paved	1/2
Broad Cove, Pleasant Street*			•	Car top	1/2
Somerset Village					
Waterfront Park, Main St.			•	Paved	All

	ے			ဂွ	ر
Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramı	Site	Jsab Tide
	es	S	P	ion	le
САРЕ	COI	D:			
Bourne					
Barlow's Landing Bourne Marina			•	Paved Paved	All
Canal at Electric Avenue (RO)			•	Paved	All
Hen Cove			•	Paved	All
Monument Beach			•	Paved	All
Red Brook Harbor			•	Paved	All
Falmouth					
Childs River, Off Rte. 28			•	Paved	All
Falmouth Inner Harbor	1		•	Paved	All
Great Pond, Harrington St.	1		•	Paved	All
Green Pond.			•	Paved	All
Menauhant Road					
Megansett Harbor,				Paved	All
County Road				Tavea	7 (1)
Waquoit Bay, Seapit Road			•	Paved	All
			•	Paved	All
West Falmouth Harbor,				Paveu	All
Old Dock Road			_	David	A.II
Wild Harbor, Old Silver Beach			•	Paved	All
Great Harbor, Woods Hole	1	1	•	Paved	All
Sandwich					
Canal Basin			•	Paved	All
Canal-East End	2				
Craven's Landing				Sand	1/2
Scusset Beach State Park		1			
Mashpee					
Daniels Island Rd.			•	Paved	All
Great Neck Road, Ockway Bay			•	Paved	All
Mashpee Neck Road Poponesset Beach, Wading			•	Paved	All
Place Rd.*					
South Cape Beach	1				
Barnstable					
Barnstable Harbor, Blish Point			•	Paved	All
Barnstable Harbor (RO)			•	Paved	All
Bay Street Osterville (RO)			•	Paved	3/4
Bridge Street, Osterville(RO)			•	Sand	1/2
East Bay Road Osterville (RO)			•	Paved	1/2
Haywood Rd.(RO)			•	Paved	All
Lewis Bay Road Hyannis			•	Paved	All
Ocean View Ave Cotuit (RO)			•	Sand	All
Old Shore Road,			•	Sand	1/2
Ropes Beach (RO)					
Prince Cove (RO)			•	Paved	All
Scudder Lane (RO)			•	Sand	1/2
Iyanough Rd., Hyannisport (RO)	1		•	Sand	1/2

Massachusetts Coastal Waters

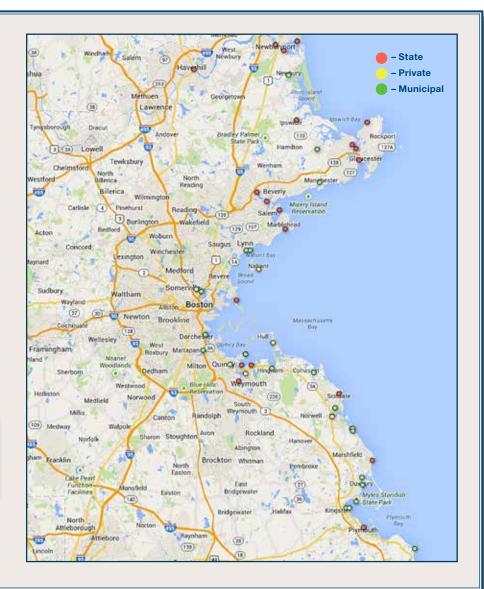
Salisbury to Marshfield



Scan this with your mobile device to find access ramps nearest you.



Access Map Courtesy of Google Maps



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Dealers, Marinas, Charters, All Entities & Multi-Owners



2011 Reader's Choice Award Winner!



Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
Yarmouth					
Bay View Street			•	Paved	1/2
Centre Street, Bass Hole			•	Paved	1/2
Follins Pond Road			•	Sand	1/2
High Bank Road*		1	•	Paved	All
New Hampshire Ave.			•	Paved	3/4
Pleasant St. Beach			•	Paved	1/2
Sea Gull Beach			•	Paved	All
Parkers River, Rt. 28		1			
Smugglers Beach,	1	1	•	Paved	All
South Street					
Dennis					
Cold Storage Rd.	1		•	Paved	All
Follins Pond			•	Paved	All
Horsefoot Cove			•	Paved	All
Sesuit Neck Road			•	Paved	All
Uncle Freeman's Way			•	Paved	All
Harwich					
Allens Harbor	1		•	Paved	All
Herring River			•	Paved	All
Round Cove			•	Paved	All
Saquatucket Harbor			•	Paved	All
Chatham					
Barn Hill Rd.			•	Paved	All
Bridge Street			•	Paved	3/4
Crows Pond			•	Paved	3/4
Mitchell River Bridge					
Oyster River			•	Sand	All
Ryder's Cove			•	Paved	All
Orleans					
Arey's Pond			•	Paved	All
Cove Road			•	Paved	All
Goose Hummock Shop			•	Paved	All
Herring Brook Way			•	Paved	All
Meeting House Pond,			•	Paved	All
River Road (RO)					
Mill Pond			•	Paved	All
Paw Wah Pond			•	Paved	All
Quanset Road			•	Paved	All
Rock Harbor	1		•	Paved	All
Eastham					
Rock Harbor	1		•	Paved	1/2
Hemenway Road			•	Paved	1/2
Rt. 6 Town Cove			•	Paved	1/2
Wellfleet					
Town Pier	1		•	Paved	All

Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
Truro					
Pamet Harbor			•	Paved	All
Provincetown					
West End Parking Lot,			•	Paved	1/2
Commercial Street					
MARTHA'S	VIN	EYAI	RD:		
Chilmark					
Great Rock Bight, North Road*					
Nashaquitsa Pond, South Road			•	Paved	All
Menemsha	1	1			
Edgartown					
East Beach, Cape Poge*	1		•	Cartop	All
State Road	1				
Memorial Wharf		1			
Edgartown Great Pond,			•	Sand	All
Wilson Landing					
Katama Bay,			•	Paved	3/4
Edgartown Bay Road					
Eel Pond,			•	Paved	All
Pease's Point Way					
Aquinnah					
Menemsha Creek,	1		•	Paved	All
Lobsterville Beach					
Dogfish Bar*					
Oak Bluffs					
State Road	3		•	Paved	All
Seaview Ave.		1			
Beach Road	1				
Harbor, East Chop Drive			•	Paved	All
Pecoy Point, Pulpit Rock Road			•	Cartop	All
Tisbury					
Lagoon Pond, Beach Road			•	Paved	All
Tashmoo Pond, Lake Avenue	1		•	Paved	All
NANTUCKET:					
Jackson Point			•	Paved	All
Madaket Harbor, H Street			•	Paved	All
Nantucket Harbor			•	Paved	All

Do you want to know where to go fishing or boating?

Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts is now available. This 146 page map booklet will show and tell you information about current public sites. Send \$8.00, payable by check to:



Office of Fishing & Boating Access

Department of Fish and Game

1 Rabbit Hill Road

Westborough, MA 01581

For more information call: (508) 389-7810

Massachusetts Coastal Waters

Marshfield to Seekonk

Access Map Courtesy of Google Maps



Scan this with your mobile device to find access ramps nearest you.





Recreational Lobstering and Crabbing

Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit

Who can get one? U.S. Citizens and residents of Massachusetts

Parental consent is needed if the child is under 17 years old.

U.S. Citizens and non-residents of Massachusetts who:

- 1. Temporarily reside in any coastal city or town of Massachusetts and
- 2. Own more than \$5,000 in real estate within Massachusetts as determined by tax records.

Non-U.S. Citizens who are not residents of Massachusetts shall:

- Provide a copy of the alien registration receipt card issued by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service to the applicant and
- 2. Temporarily reside in any coastal city or town of Massachusetts and
- 3. Own more than \$5,000 in real estate within Massachusetts as determined by tax records.

Non-U.S. Citizens who are residents of Massachusetts shall:

Provide a copy of applicant's alien registration receipt card issued by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

What does it cost?

\$55 for residents of Massachusetts. \$75 for all non-residents.

Can I sell my lobsters?

No. A Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit **DOES NOT** allow you to sell your catch. You must obtain a Commercial Lobster/Crabbing Permit if you wish to sell your catch.

Where can I get a permit?

You can purchase a Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit at any MA Division of Marine Fisheries business office.

Please visit: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries and follow the step by step instructions for purchasing a Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit. How many lobsters and crabs can I take?

you may purchase/renew your

Recreational Lobster/Crabbing
Permit online (certain restrictions apply)

If you are a Massachusetts resident

There is a limit of **15 lobsters** per day per permit, and all lobsters must meet the legal requirements. There is a limit of **25 blue crabs** per day and a limit of **50 crabs** per day total for all edible crab species combined.

Who can use the permit?

A Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit authorizes the holder and members of the holder's **immediate family**, residing in the same residence, to fish for and take lobsters and edible crabs using up to 10 pots. The immediate family is defined as the **spouse**, **parents**, **children**, **grandparents**, **brothers**, **and sisters** of the holder.

This permit may be endorsed for diving for the permit holder only. Other family members may purchase additional permits for diving.

Only **ONE** Recreational Lobster/Crabbing permit endorsed for 10 pots is allowed per family/household.

Can I dive and use pots with this permit?

When you purchase your Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit you must specify if you want it endorsed for the use of 10 pots or for diving. Your permit can be endorsed for both practices if you prefer.

Where can traps be set?

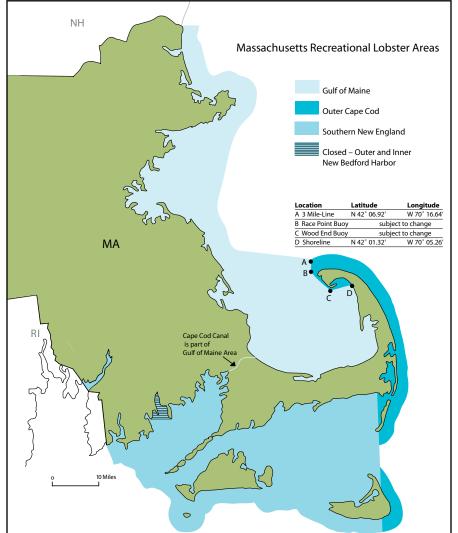
No buoyed traps may be set in the Cape Cod Canal. New Bedford Harbor is closed to lobster harvest north of a line from Ricketson's Point (Dartmouth) to Wilbur Point (Fairhaven).

Is reporting required?

Annual catch reports are required of all Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit holders. These forms are provided by Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) at the time of renewal. Renewal licenses will not be issued until a catch report has been filed.

Do I need the permit if I intend to take only crabs by hand or dipnet?

No, you are exempt.



Recreational Regulations

Recreational Lobster Regulations					
Gulf of Maine Recreational Lobster Area					
Minimum Size	31/4"				
Maximum Size	5"				
V-Notched Females	Illegal to possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as 1/6" with or without setal hairs				
Trap Limit	10 Traps				
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 115/16" x 53/4" or two circular vents of 27/16" in diameter				
Bag Limit	15 per day				
Outer Ca	ape Cod Recreational Lobster Area				
Minimum Size	3%"				
Maximum Size	_				
V-Notched Females	Illegal to possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as 1/8" with or without setal hairs				
Trap Limit	10 Traps				
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 2" x 5¾" or two circular vents of 2¾" in diameter				
Bag Limit	15 per day				
Southern No	ew England Recreational Lobster Area				
Minimum Size	3%"				
Maximum Size	51/4"				
V-Notched Females	Illegal to possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as 1/8" with or without setal hairs				
Trap Limit	10 Traps				
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 2" x 5¾" or two circular vents of 25%" in diameter				
Bag Limit	15 per day				



Taking Lobster at Night is Prohibited

Lobster may only be harvested from $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset.

Egg-Bearing Females

It is unlawful to possess or land any lobster:

- 1. that is egg-bearing,
- 2. from which eggs have been removed, or
- 3. that has come in contact with any substance capable of removing lobster eggs.

Recreational Crab Regulations						
Species	Blue Crab	Other Edible Crabs (excludes Green Crabs)				
Minimum Size	5" shell width (spine to spine)	None				
Other Regulations	Egg-bearers cannot be taken; 25 crabs/day; no permit required unless using traps or SCUBA; closed season is Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, inclusive	50 crabs total per day (including up to 25 blue) – other regulations are the same as for blue crab				

Crab Idenification

continued support!







Rock Crab

Recreational Lobstering and Crabbing

How to Measure a Lobster

The Rules

Lobsters must be measured with a special gauge to make sure that they are "keepers." The carapace length is measured from the rear of the eye socket to the rear of the carapace on a line parallel to the center line of the bodyshell.

All lobsters measuring less than the minimum legal carapace length, or larger than the maximum legal carapace length, must be immediately returned to the waters from which taken. All lobsters must be measured immediately.

Mutilation

It shall be unlawful to possess any lobster, or part thereof, which is mutilated in a manner which makes accurate measurement impossible.

Note: A common error made by novices is to measure over the rostrum or horn located above the eye socket. Make certain that your gauge is in the extreme rear of the eye socket and below the horn.



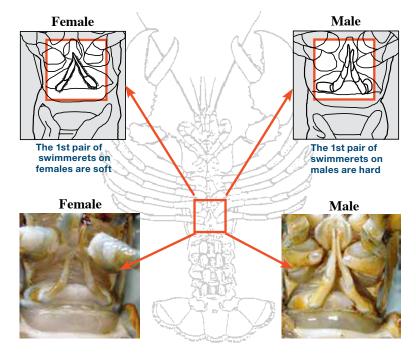




The gauge is placed in the rear of the eye socket.

Is it Male or Female?

In order to determine the sex of a lobster, you must look at the first pair of appendages under the tail, called swimmerets. They are positioned near the base of the last pair of walking legs. The first pair of swimmerets are hard in the male, and soft and feathery in the female.



All About Lobster

What are they?

Lobsters are ten-legged (decapod) crustaceans.

The American lobster is the only species of clawed lobster in the Northwestern Atlantic region.

Where are they?

The American lobster is distributed throughout the Northwest Atlantic from the Straights of Bell Isle, Newfoundland to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

They are most abundant in coastal zones at depths of less than 150 ft. (~50 m). The greatest abundance of lobster occurs within the Gulf of Maine — from midcoast Maine to southwest Nova Scotia.

Growth

American lobster is a long-lived species known to reach more than 40 lb. (18 kg).

Age is unknown because all hard parts are shed and replaced at molting (shedding), leaving no accreting material for age determination. In Massachusetts, shedding typically occurs between June and October.

Lobsters at minimum legal size are generally considered to be between 5 and 7 years of age based on hatchery observations. Maximum age is generally considered to be between 30 and 40 years.

Biology

Fertilized eggs are carried on the female abdomen for a 9 to 12 month period of development prior to hatching.

Female lobsters carry between 1,000 and >100,000 eggs depending on the size of the female.

Hatching typically occurs over a 4 month period from May through September. In Massachusetts we typically see peak hatching from late-June through early-July.

Egg-bearing Females

It is unlawful for any fisherman to take or possess any egg-bearing female lobster or female lobster with the egg mass removed, at any time.



When eggs are extruded they are dark green and the female is called a "green egger."



As eggs develop and approach hatching time they turn brown to reddish brown and the female is called a "brown egger."

V-Notching Regulations

What is a V-Notch?

A "v-notch" is a mark on the tail flipper of a female lobster that was put there by a commercial lobsterman as a means to identify and protect a known breeder in the population from harvest.

Commercial lobstermen make a v-notch in the tail flippers of egg-bearing female lobsters they encounter while fishing. The v-notch remains in the female's flipper after she has hatched her eggs which protects her from harvest through additional molts.

V-Notching History

The practice of v-notching, as a means of protecting local broodstock, originated in Maine and dates back to the early 1900s.

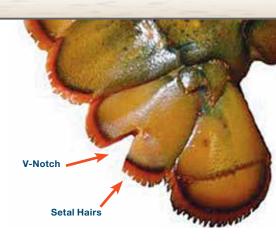
Which Flipper is Notched?

The tail flipper immediately to the right of the middle flipper, when the lobster is examined with the underside of the lobster down and its tail is toward the person making the determination.

Recreational Lobster/Crab Permit holders are not required to v-notch egg-bearing female lobsters.

Mutilation

It is illegal to possess any female lobster in which the v-notch flipper is mutilated in a manner which could hide, obscure, or obliterate such a mark.



Below: Newly v-notched lobster and additional pictures of the v-notched lobster before and after it underwent two successive molts. Note that changes occurred even before the lobster molted.









SCUBA Regulations for Recreational Lobster/Crabbing



Permits and Conditions

A Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit endorsed for diving is required of all individuals who recreationally dive for lobsters in coastal waters.

No permit is required for the taking of edible crabs (including blue crabs) for use by immediate family if diving, dip-netting, or using "star" traps, provided that the number of blue crabs does not exceed twenty-five (25) in one day, and fifty (50) total in one day for all edible crabs, and that no 6-sided pots or traps are used.

Gear Marking

Divers must display their assigned permit number upon their tank and dive flag or a floating marker (upright single panel at least 12" x 12", white background, black numerals at least 3" high, ½" in thickness or width of line on both sides of the marker). A group of divers may use only one floating marker listing the permit number of EACH diver in the group.

Catch Limits

There is a limit of **15 lobsters** per day per permit, and all lobsters must meet the legal requirements. Divers are required to measure all lobsters in possession prior to surfacing.

Taking of blue crabs and other edible crabs is prohibited from January 1 through April 30. There is a limit of **25 blue crabs** per day.

There is a combined limit of 50 edible crabs (blue, Jonah, and rock) per day.

Gear Requirements

Every diver or group of divers, while swimming on or below the surface of the waters of the Commonwealth, is required by Massachusetts General Law to display a dive flag.

Flag must be at least 12" X 15" in area of red background with a white diagonal stripe.

The dive flag must be displayed on a boat or surface float.

It must extend at least 3 feet from the surface of the water.

Divers shall remain in an area within 100 feet of such displayed diver's flag while at or near the surface of the water.

Methods of Taking Lobsters and Crabs

Not Allowed: Massachusetts General Laws prohibits the taking of lobsters by spearing, dipping, or dragging.

Spearing – the use of a spear gun, pole spear, or any other object that may be used to pierce the shell of the lobster as a means of harvest.

Dipping - the use of a dip net.

Dragging - the use of mobile or hauled nets or dredges.

Snaring - the use of poles with loops.

Allowed: Harvesting of lobster by hand, or the use of an angled "tickle stick," which is a straight or slightly bent stick used to agitate a lobster into coming out of its hole.

Common Questions

I have a 10-pot recreational permit, is it automatically endorsed for diving?

No. You must specify that you would like your permit to be endorsed for diving. There is no extra charge for this.

Does everyone in my dive group need a permit for taking lobster?

Yes. Each individual diver who intends to take lobster or crabs needs an individual permit. If diving in a group, each individuals permit number must be displayed on their tanks and on the surface floatation.

Does my diving permit cover the immediate members of my family as well?

No, diver permits are for the individual diver only.

All About Gear

Definitions

Single pots: individual lobster pots

Pot trawls: a series of single pots tied together and buoyed at both ends.

East end: the part of the pot trawl extending from 01° through 180° magnetic.

West end: the part of a pot trawl extending from 181° through 00° magnetic.

Groundline: the line connecting pots on a pot trawl.

Buoy line: lines connecting pots to surface buoys.

Sinking line: the line that has a specific gravity equal to or greater than that of seawater, 1.03, and does not float up in the water column.

Weak link: a breakable section or device that will part when subjected to specified poundage of pull pressure and, after parting, will result in a knotless end, no thicker than the diameter of the line, the so-called "bitter end" to prevent lodging in whale baleen.

How many traps can I set?

The Massachusetts Recreational Lobster Permit allows for **10 traps ONLY**.

Can I use "star" traps?

Open, collapsible wire traps, hauled by hand, such as the "star" trap, cannot be used to catch lobsters, but are legal for edible crabs.

Can someone else pull my traps?

Any immediate family member that resides in your household may pull your traps for you.

Trawls vs. Single Pots

A Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit allows for the use of pot trawls or single pots. Traditionally, Recreational Lobster Permit holders prefer to use single pots.

Permit Number/Gear Markings

Recreational Lobster Permit Holders must use the last 5 digits of their Customer ID number, located in the upper right hand corner of the permit, to mark gear.

- All buoys, pots, traps, cars, dive markers and air tanks must be marked with the licensee's 5-digit permit number.
- The permit number must be burned or cut into the surface at least ½" deep x ½" thick.
- In the case of non-wooden traps, said numbers shall be burned or cut into a wooden lath or plate made of durable synthetic material, which shall be permanently secured to the inside of the trap.
- Recreational permit holders must also add the letter "N" preceding their 5-digit permit number, followed by a (-) with a single digit from 0 to 9, indicating the sequential pot number in the series that the permit holder is fishing. (This gear-marking requirement negates the need for trap tags for recreational lobster permit holders.)
- Existing gear can be marked with the new permit number and the former permit number crossed out.

Gear Construction Requirements

Restrictions

It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take lobsters or crabs by use of pots or traps without said pots or traps having the following features:

• Ghost Panel and an Escape Vent

It is also unlawful for any lobster/crab trap to exceed a volume of 22,950 cubic inches.

Ghost Panel

Ghost panels are designed to create an opening to allow the escapement of lobsters within 12 months after a trap has been abandoned or lost.

Ghost panel specifications:

- The opening covered by the panel must be rectangular and measure at least 3 %" by 3 %"
- It must be located in the outer parlor section of the trap and in a position which allows an unobstructed exit of lobsters from the trap.

Escape Vent

Escapes vents are required in order to allow sub-legal lobsters and other non-targeted species to escape lobster/crab traps.

It is required that one or more rectangular escape vents or openings, or two or more unobstructed round openings, be placed in the parlor section of the trap.

If your traps have two parlors, **BOTH** must be vented.



Minimum Requirements

Single pots - Single pots shall each be marked with a single 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy. Sticks are optional, but if used, shall not have a flag attached.

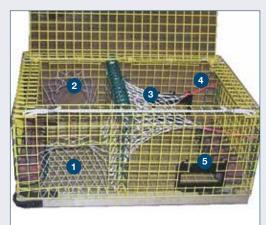
Pot trawls - The east end of a pot trawl shall be marked with a double buoy, consisting of any combination of two 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoys and one or more three foot sticks (so the two buoys can be side-by-side or stacked). The west end of a pot trawl shall be marked with a single 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy with a three foot stick and a flag.

Buoy Colors

Each applicant for a Recreational Lobster Permit can choose up to three colors for the desired color scheme of their buoys. All buoys used by the permit holder must be marked with that specific color scheme.

Anatomy of a Lobster Trap

- **1. Entrance Head:** Mesh opening where lobsters enter the trap.
- **2. Kitchen:** This is where the bait bag is placed to attract lobsters into the trap.
- **3. Parlor Head or Funnel:** Lobsters use this mesh netting as a means out of the kitchen, assuming it's a way out of the trap.
- **4. Parlor:** Area where the lobsters end up after leaving the kitchen and traveling up the funnel. Most of the catch will be found in this part of the trap.



5. Escape Vent/Ghost Panel: Opening of designated size that allows sub-legal lobsters to escape the trap. The biodegradable materials used to attach the escape vent panel will allow the "ghost panel" to open if the trap has been lost or abandoned. This prevents the trap from continuing to fish after it has been lost or abandoned.

Recreational fishermen fishing in the Outer Cape Cod or Southern New England Recreational Lobster Areas: Rectangular escape vents must measure at least 2" by 5%" or two circular vents must measure at least 2%" in diameter.

Gear Questions

Can the escape vent be used as the ghost panel?

Yes. The escape vent may serve as a ghost panel if incorporated into a panel constructed of, or attached to the trap with: wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than $\frac{1}{16}$ " in diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than $\frac{1}{22}$ " in diameter,

and upon breakdown of the degradable materials, will create an opening for egress of lobsters at least $3 \frac{1}{4}$ by $3 \frac{3}{4}$ ".

Can the door of the trap be considered a ghost panel?

Yes. The door of the trap may serve as the ghost panel if fastened to the trap with: wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than ½ in diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than ½ idiameter.

Do escape vents and ghost panels need to be attached in a specific orientation?

No. Escape vents and ghost panels need to provide an unobstructed means for escape for lobsters and

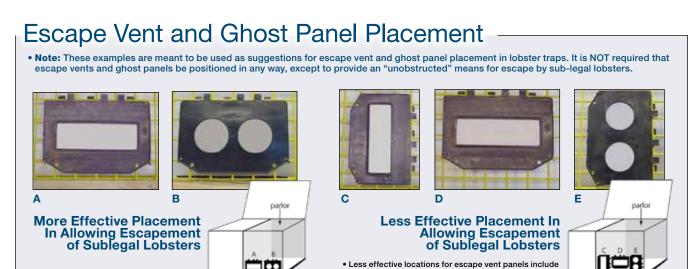
must be located in the parlor section of the trap. It has been observed, however, that certain orientations work better than others (see below).

If I use wood traps do I need a ghost panel?

Traps constructed entirely or partially of wood shall be considered to be in compliance if constructed of wood lath to the extent that deterioration of wooden component(s) will result in an unobstructed opening at least 3 3/32" by 3 3/32".

Why are there rectangular and circular vent options?

Circular vents retain crabs better than rectangular vents.



the inside of a trap and the upper panel and door.

Whale-Related Gear Rules

Year Round:

Massachusetts state waters are important habitat for endangered large whale species, including the humpback whale and North Atlantic right whale. Entanglement in fishing gear is a major cause of injury and mortality for large whales. *MarineFisheries* requires the use of modified fishing gear in order to reduce the risk of whale entanglement and identify entangling gear.

The following restrictions apply to all recreational pots set on a year round basis.

- All buoys must be outfitted with a 600-pound weak link. See photo.
- 2. If fishing pot trawls, sinking groundline must be used between all traps.



Buoy Line Marking

By marking the rope, that gear can be identified to a certain area and fishery, if it is taken off an entangled whale.

- 3. Vertical buoy lines must be made of sinking line, except the bottom 1/3 portion, which may be floating line if desired.
- 4. All gear must have a 4 inch red marker midway on the buoy line. See photo.



Weak Links

Weak links allow the buoy to part away from the buoy line in the event that a whale encounters your gear.

Definitions

Single: one pot with a single buoy line attached.

Double: two pot string of traps with a single buoy line attached.

Twin orange markers: a pair of identical orange flag-like strips of material that are clearly visible and attached to the buoy stick or high flyer.

Triple: three pot string of traps with a single buoy line attached.

Sinking line: a line that has a specific gravity greater than that of seawater, 1.03, and does not float up in the water column.

Weak Link: breakable section or device that will part when subjected to specified poundage of pull pressure and after parting, will result in a knot-less end, no thicker than the diameter of the line, the so-called "bitter end," to prevent lodging in whale baleen.

Abandon or dispose of at sea: to leave fixed gear in the water without hauling it at least every 30 days or in prohibited areas during prohibited periods.

Seasonal:

Cape Cod Bay Critical Habitat Gear Rules



The North Atlantic right whale is one of the most endangered large whales in the world. Cape Cod Bay (CCB) is federally-designated as Critical Habitat for the species. Right whales return to this area each winter and spring to feed on the abundant zooplankton in the bay. To reduce the risk of entanglement in fishing gear in this important habitat, *MarineFisheries* requires compliance with strict seasonal gear restrictions during the time the whales are present.

January 1 – May 15

During the period of **January 1st to May 15th**, the following restrictions apply to all gear in the CCB Critical Habitat Area.

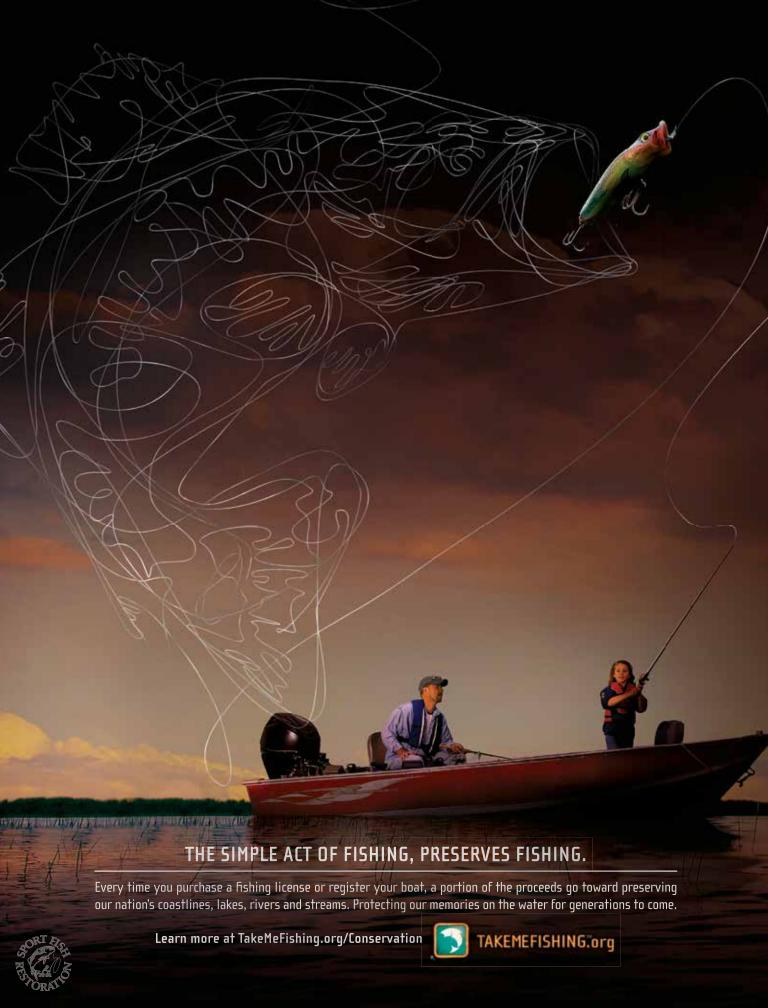
- 1. The use of single pots is prohibited. Fishermen may use either multiple pot trawls consisting of four pots or more or may set doubles or triples.
 - a. Multiple pot trawls shall consist of four pots or more with vertical buoy lines on the first and last pot of the trawl.

- 2. Double or triple pot trawls must have only 1 buoy line.
 - a. It is unlawful to fish double or triple pot trawls with more than one vertical buoy line attached.
- **3.** All trawls must have twin orange markers or flags on each buoy. See definition above.
- All trawls must have 500 pound weak links on each buoy.
 See details above.
- All trawls must have a 4 inch red marker midway on each buoy line. See details above.

May 16 - December 31

The following restrictions apply to all gear in the CCB Critical Habitat Area on a year-round basis.

- All buoys must be outfitted with a 600-pound weak link.
 See details above.
- If fishing pot trawls, sinking groundline must be used between all traps.
- 3. Vertical buoy lines must be made of sinking line, except the bottom ½ portion, which may be floating line if desired.
- 4. All gear must have a 4 inch red marker midway on the buoy line. See details above.



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* Denotes official DMF Saltwater Fishing Derby Weigh Station.

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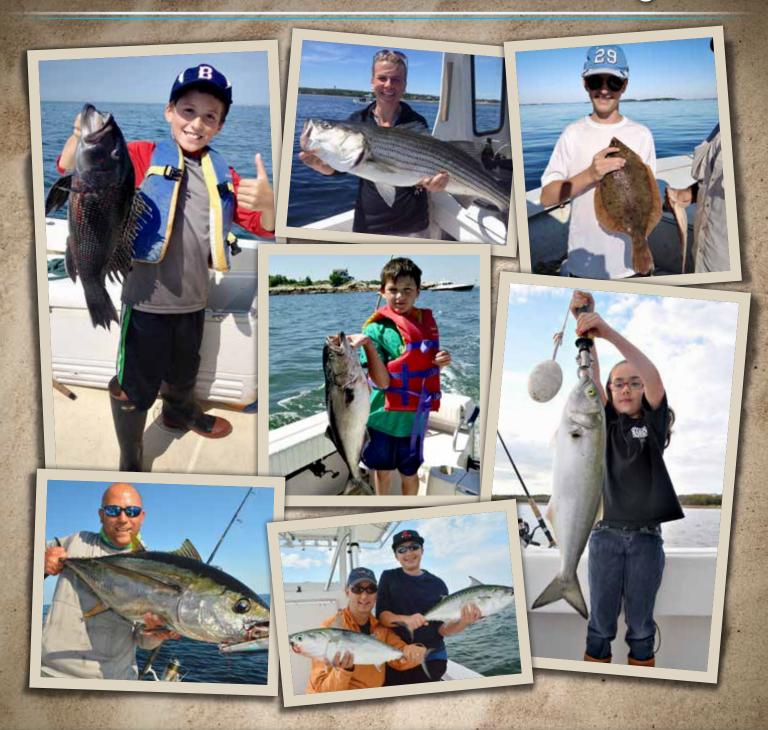


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